

TOWN OF ARLINGTON

Joseph Connelly
Director of Recreation



PARK COMMISSIONERS
Leslie Mayer, Chairperson
Jen Rothenberg, Vice Chair
Shirley Canniff
Donald Vitters

Elena Bartholomew, Associate
Peter Hedlund, Associate

Recreation Department

Park and Recreation Commission
Minutes
Tuesday, October 13, 2015
Arlington Senior Center
Approved

The Park and Recreation Commission came to order at 7:00 PM for its meeting in the Arlington Senior Center on Tuesday, October 13, 2015.

Members in attendance included: Shirley Canniff, Leslie Mayer, Jen Rothenberg, Don Vitters, Associate Member Elena Bartholomew, and Associate Member Peter Hedlund. Director of Recreation, Joseph Connelly was also present.

Members from the public: Jessica Grass, Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Michael Smith, Lisa Bielefeld, Beth Martin and David Martin.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Mayer motioned to approve the August 11, 2015 minutes, seconded by Ms. Canniff and approved 3-0-1 with Mr. Vitters abstaining.

Ms. Mayer motioned to approve the September 8, 2015 minutes as amended, seconded by Ms. Canniff and approved 4-0.

The minutes of 9/22 were tabled. Ms. Mayer asked for greater detail on the selection process.

Open Forum – Public Comments

Ms. Grass asked about the two correspondences for off leash dogs that appeared on the agenda. Mr. Connelly stated that was inaccurate and no correspondence was received. Ms. Grass exited the meeting.

Robbins Farm Community Garden ADA and Fence Approval

Mr. Connelly introduced the topic and Ms. Carr-Jones reviewed the proposal for ADA upgrades and pathway access improvements. Ms. Carr-Jones urged the importance of an organic path material at an organic garden. The Commission and the gardener's in attendance discussed the current grade of the garden and the options for raised beds. Ms. Carr-Jones stated that the FORFP were supportive of the changes but were concerned about how this may impact the rest of the park with its precedent for ADA.

Mr. Connelly stated that he would want to run by IHCD any proposed changes. The Commission discussed the timing of the proposed changes. Ms. Carr-Jones reviewed the three year proposal for the implemented changes. Mr. Connelly then stated that it may make sense to incorporate the access and

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garden proposed changes into the capital renovation being requested for FY 17. Mr. Connelly stated that with the timing of the proposed plan implantation, as well as what will be learned from the Magnolia community garden project taking place in FY 16, it may make sense to hold off on any immediate changes and work them into the larger renovation. The Commission discussed this option with Ms. Carr-Jones, Mr. Smith and Ms. Bielefeld, who were supportive.

Ms. Canniff raised the concern that the FORFP did come to the Commission to discuss the proposed dog statue and that project is currently not included in the scope for the FY 17 renovation. Mr. Connelly and Ms. Mayer indicated that this had been raised as a possibility with the FORFP representatives, but no response has been received.

Mr. Vitters motioned to include the proposed garden improvements into the scope of work for the Robbins Farm renovation planned for FY 17 with the details of that scope of work to be determined. The motion was seconded by Ms. Mayer and approved 3-1 with Ms. Canniff voting in the negative.

Request for Private Event at Reservoir Beach – Beth Martin

Mr. and Mrs. Martin reviewed their proposal to use the Reservoir Beach as a site for a private family gathering in June. The Commission stated that this was a unique request and would have to be vetted by Town Counsel and the APD safety officer. The Martins acknowledged the uniqueness of the request and stated they are open to any changes to their proposal. Ms. Canniff did state the current proposal end time of 10 pm may be difficult without lights and was an issue. Mr. Vitters asked how many would be planned to be in attendance. The Martins answered roughly 150.

The Commissioners asked Mr. Connelly to reach out to both Town Counsel and the safety officer for feedback and then report back to them.

Park Commissioner Opening Update

Mr. Connelly stated that current Associate Member Elena Bartholomew was being recommended to the BOS for the full Commission seat and that a new Associate Member, Crissy Tarantino, was being appointed. Mr. Connelly anticipated all of this taking place in November.

Special Requests

Friends of Waldo Halloween Event

Ms Mayer motioned to approve, seconded by Ms. Canniff and approved 4-0.

Commission Topic Leader Discussion

Capital Improvements – Mr. Connelly discussed the Magnolia public input session to be held on Tuesday, October 27th within the regularly scheduled meeting.

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ADA and Playground – Mr. Connelly stated that the contract was sent to Berkshire Associates and the design work would be beginning this fall.

Off Leash Park Program – Mr. Mayer reviewed the potential Vision 2020 questions regarding the need for off leash recreation areas in town.

Open Space – Ms. Mayer reviewed the new open space and recreation “Story Map” being added to the Town Website.

Funding Opportunities – Mr. Vitters announced that he has learned that the Land and Water Conservation Act which has funded many project many projects throughout the state and country is no longer providing funding.

DPW Liaison – Mr. Vitters and Ms. Canniff reviewed the successful meeting with new Natural Resource Director Jeff Rikeman. Mr. Connelly stated that Mr. Rikeman would be at the November 10th Commission Meeting to meet the Commission.

Capital Project Updates

Ms. Rothenberg asked that this topic be moved earlier in future agendas.

Mr. Connelly reviewed the Spy Pond Tennis Court project punch list. Ms. Mayer asked that the vehicle service gate be looked at again. She believes it is in the wrong location. Mr. Connelly will look into this and get back to the Commission.

Mr. Connelly reviewed the issue with soliciting fencing vendors for just the Buck Field project. Mr. Connelly stated that he is hoping to get a preliminary feasibility study completed for Summer Street field to assist with the planning of that complex. This would include the backstop and fencing work.

The Commission discussed the FY17 process with capital requests and the CPA committee. Ms. Mayer updated the Commission on the initial meeting schedule for CPA.

Other

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 pm

Respectfully Submitted:
Joseph Connelly, Director of Recreation

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